

112TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 5683

To authorize the President to establish the Veterans' Job Corps as a means of providing gainful employment to unemployed veterans and widows of veterans through the performance of useful public works, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 9, 2012

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To authorize the President to establish the Veterans' Job Corps as a means of providing gainful employment to unemployed veterans and widows of veterans through the performance of useful public works, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the "Veterans' Job Corps
5 Act".

1 **SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT AND OPERATION OF VETERANS'**
2 **JOB CORPS.**

3 (a) ESTABLISHMENT AND PURPOSE.—In order to
4 provide employment opportunities to veterans and widows
5 and to provide for the restoration of depleted natural re-
6 sources in the United States and the advancement of an
7 orderly program of useful public works, the President may
8 establish and operate a Veterans' Job Corps to employ vet-
9 erans and widows who are otherwise unemployed, in the
10 construction, maintenance, and carrying on of works of
11 a public nature in connection with—

12 (1) the forestation of lands belonging to the
13 United States or a State;

14 (2) the prevention of forest fires, floods, and
15 soil erosion;

16 (3) public safety;

17 (4) plant pest and disease control;

18 (5) the construction, maintenance, or repair of
19 paths, trails, and fire-lanes in units of the National
20 Park System, public lands, and other lands under
21 the jurisdiction of the Secretary of the Interior and
22 units of the National Forest System; and

23 (6) such other work on Federal or State land
24 incidental to or necessary in connection with any
25 projects of the character enumerated in paragraphs

1 (1) through (5) that the President determines to be
2 desirable.

3 (b) ROLE OF FEDERAL AGENCIES.—To operate the
4 Veterans' Job Corps, the President may use existing Fed-
5 eral departments and agencies, including the Department
6 of the Interior, the Department of Agriculture, and the
7 Department of Veterans Affairs.

8 (c) INCLUSION OF OTHER LANDS.—The President
9 may extend the activities of the Veterans' Job Corps to
10 lands owned by a political subdivision of a State and lands
11 in private ownership for the purpose of conducting such
12 kinds of cooperation work authorized by law in preventing
13 and controlling forest fires and the attacks of forest tree
14 pests and diseases and such work as is necessary and in
15 the public interest to control floods.

16 (d) CONTRACT AUTHORITY.—The President may
17 enter into such contracts or agreements that may be nec-
18 essary to carry out this Act.

19 (e) ACQUISITION OF REAL PROPERTY.—The Presi-
20 dent, or the head of any department or agency authorized
21 by the President to construct any project or to carry on
22 any public works under this Act, may acquire real prop-
23 erty for such project or public work by purchase, donation,
24 or otherwise.

1 **SEC. 3. ADMINISTRATION OF VETERANS' JOB CORPS.**

2 (a) EMPLOYMENT PREFERENCE.—The President
3 shall employ individuals in the Veterans' Job Corps in the
4 following order of preference:

5 (1) Unemployed veterans.

6 (2) Widows who, immediately before employ-
7 ment in the Veterans' Job Corps, are eligible for un-
8 employment compensation payable under any State
9 law or Federal unemployment compensation law, in-
10 cluding any additional compensation or extended
11 compensation under such laws.

12 (b) HOUSING AND CARE OF EMPLOYEES.—The
13 President may provide housing for individuals employed
14 in the Veterans' Job Corps and furnish them with such
15 subsistence, clothing, medical attendance and hospitaliza-
16 tion, and cash allowance, as may be necessary, during the
17 period they are so employed.

18 (c) TRANSPORTATION.—The President may provide
19 for the transportation of individuals employed in the Vet-
20 erans' Job Corps to and from the places of employment.

21 (d) EXCLUSION.—The following individuals may not
22 be employed under the provisions of this Act:

23 (1) An individual convicted of a felony.

24 (2) A veteran who was discharged from the
25 Armed Forces under dishonorable conditions.

1 **SEC. 4. USE OF FUNDS.**

2 (a) USE OF UNOBLIGATED FUNDS APPROPRIATED
3 FOR PUBLIC WORKS.—

4 (1) USE OF EXISTING FUNDS.—In addition to
5 any amounts appropriated to carry out this Act, the
6 President may use any moneys previously appro-
7 priated for public works and unobligated as of the
8 date of the enactment of this Act to establish and
9 operate a Veterans’ Job Corps under this Act.

10 (2) USE TO RELIEVE UNEMPLOYMENT.—Not
11 less than 75 percent of the funds used pursuant to
12 paragraph (1) shall be used to provide for the em-
13 ployment of individuals under this Act.

14 (b) DURATION OF AVAILABILITY.—Amounts appro-
15 priated to carry out this Act or made available under sub-
16 section (b) shall remain available until expended.

17 **SEC. 5. DEFINITIONS.**

18 In this Act:

19 (1) The term “veteran” has the meaning given
20 that term in section 101(2) of title 38, United
21 States Code.

22 (2) The term “widow”—

23 (A) means the spouse of a veteran who has
24 not remarried after the death of such veteran;
25 and

26 (B) includes widowers.

1 **SEC. 6. TERMINATION.**

2 The authority of the President to establish and oper-
3 ate a Veterans' Job Corps under this Act expires on Sep-
4 tember 30, 2018.

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